

Appointment in KVS

4653. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 417, given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 2001 and state:

- (a) the dates when the said six candidates had been offered appointments and dates on which the other ones of different categories had been given appointments in Kendriya Vidyalayas; and
- (b) the details if needs and urgency for offering appointments to the said six candidates, ahead of the remaining ones?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Difference between urban and rural areas in literacy rate

4654. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a big difference between the urban and rural areas in regard to literacy rate;
- (b) if so, the efforts made by Government to reduce the difference during the last three years;
- (c) whether any assistance has been provided for bridging or reducing this difference during the same period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to NFHS-2, 1998 released in November, 2000, the literacy rate is 80.1 per cent in urban areas and 56.7 per cent in rural areas. The urban-rural differential has reduced from 28.4 per cent in 1991 to 23.4 per cent in 1998.

(b) to (e) During 1991-98 period, rural literacy rate has increased by 12 per cent as against the urban literacy rate of 7 per cent.

Monthly Monitoring Meetings are held to critically review the progress of literacy campaigns in the States with special focus on illiteracy prone rural areas.

A new approach has been adopted since 1st April, 2000 with the following features to ensure effective implementation of literacy programmes particularly in rural areas:

- (i) National Literacy Mission (NLM) parameters have been revised and financial norms enhanced.
- (ii) Decentralization and delegation of financial and administrative powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities (SLMAs).
- (iii) The integrated Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) and Post Literacy Programmes (PLP) approach to achieve continuity, efficiency and convergence.
- (iv) Under Continuing Education Programme neo literates are provided opportunities for skill development, income generating programmes and individual interest promotion programmes. Centres also work for removal of residual illiteracy.
- (v) Jan Shikshan Sansthanas to provide vocational and technical skills especially in rural areas.

Financial assistance to State run universities

4655. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what special financial assistance/measures are contemplated for State run universities;
- (b) whether Government have no plan to take-over the State universities where there is no Central Universities run by Government of India; and
- (c) the total amount of financial assistance granted by UGC to Manipur University during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the financial assistance expected to be made available during 2001-2002?